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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1947.

NORTHWICH:
W. Hobson & Son, Printers.

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Northwich Urban District Council.

Health Report for 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1947.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	2,137 acres
Population — Registrar Generals latest estimate of population	19,580
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) ...	5,575
Rateable value (December, 1947)	£125,322
Sum represented by a penny rate (1947/48 Estimated)	£491

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate.....	369	189	180	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population... 20·02
	Illegitimate ...	23	8	15	
Stillbirths	Legitimate ...	11	3	8	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ... 36·85
	Illegitimate...	4	2	2	
Deaths...		226	137	89	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ...11·54

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.
No 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	1	2·45
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	2	4·91
Total	3	7·36

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	40·81
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	35·23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	130·43
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	32
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	1
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	2

The following table compares the main statistics for 1947 with the years 1939 — 1946:—

	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tuberculosis
1939.	19,270	14·16	12·76	54·54	39	10
1940.	18,730	14·89	14·48	73·68	32	16
1941.	18,690	15·14	11·28	48·44	28	13
1942.	18,290	15·14	11·31	57·76	33	9
1943.	18·130	18·42	12·18	47·90	32	7
1944.	18;070	17·43	14·27	41·26	40	13
1945.	18,130	19·02	13.67	60·86	32	8
1946.	19,150	21·14	12·95	46·91	38	13
1947.	19,580	20·02	11·54	40·81	32	1

CAUSES OF DEATH—1947.
(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

		Males.	Females	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—	1
7.	Other Tubercular Diseases	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
9.	Influenza	—	1	1
10.	Measles	1	—	1
11.	Ac. Polio-myel : and Polio-enceph :	—	—	—
12.	Ac. : inf : enceph :	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of B : cav : & oesoph (M)			
	uterus (F)	3	2	5
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	8	3	11
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	2	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	12	2	14
17.	Diabetes	—	—	—
18.	Intra-cran : vasc : lesions	11	11	22
19.	Heart Diseases	48	37	85
20.	Other circulatory diseases	4	2	6
21.	Bronchitis	13	5	18
22.	Pneumonia	3	—	3
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	2	—	2
26.	Appendicitis	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	3	3	6
28.	Nephritis	1	3	4
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	—	1	1
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
31.	Premature Birth	1	4	5
32.	Congenital debility and Malformations	3	1	4
33.	Suicide	2	2	4
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
35.	Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
36.	All other Causes	11	4	15
		137	89	226

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) **Staff.**

W. S. Slater, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	(Services shared with the Winsford and Middlewich Urban District & Northwich Rural District & with the Northwich and District Joint Hospital Board).
Sister I. D. Rogerson	Trained Nurse (Scabies and Diphtheria Immunisation).	-do-
Clerical Staff	2 persons (whole-time).	-do-
F. Armitage. M.S.I.A. & Cert. R.S.I. Meat & other Foods.	Whole-time Senior Sanitary Inspector	Northwich Urban District Council only).
F. Johnson, Cert. R.S.I., & S.I.E. J.B., Cert. R.S.I. Meat & Other Foods.	Whole-time Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
Clerical Staff	1 person (whole-time).	-do-

(2) **Laboratory Facilities.**

The arrangements made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory and with the County Analyst proved adequate during the year for the examination of water, milk and ice-cream supplies and pathological specimens of all descriptions.

(3) **Ambulance Facilities.**

During the year this Service covered the Northwich and Middlewich Urban Districts and the Northwich Rural District and attended many other calls from adjoining areas. The mileage covered during the year by the 3 vehicles in the Service was 19,918 miles, involving the removal of 595 patients.

(4) **Davenham Isolation Hospital.**

The Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Davenham, Nr. Northwich, served adequately the needs of the District Council during the year and admitted 28 Northwich Urban patients during 1947.

(5) Details of the other Health Services, e.g., Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, Diphtheria Immunisation, etc., etc., provided by the Northwich Urban Council are recorded later in this report.

(B) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have Officers discharging duties in the Urban Area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, Vaccination, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection, Specialist Service, e.g., Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Venereal Diseases. County Maternity Services are provided in neighbouring Hospitals, e.g., West Park, Clatterbridge, Chester City Hospital and County Maternity Homes.

County proposals are pending to delegate to Divisional Health Committees, with a view to fostering local interest in and responsibility for most of the "Personal" Health Services under the National Health Service Act. The Urban Council is likely to be adequately represented on such Divisional Committees and so the intimate knowledge of Members of local needs and conditions can be used to full advantage in the day to day management of such Personal Health Services.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.—The actual operation of this service was taken over by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board on 11/9/47. No known major extensions have been carried out within the Urban District of Northwich during the year.

During the year, 3 water samples taken by the Council's staff were reported upon and in each case the County Analyst describes the supply as water of "thoroughly wholesome bacteriological quality."

The Town's supply has no plumbo-solvent action and as a safeguard, chlorination is regularly applied.

As to the availability of the supply, all the 5,575 houses of the Urban District are supplied by the Water Board's own public supply. This supply is "laid on" to 102 houses by means of standpipes.

Swimming Bath.—2 bacteriological examinations of the water in the Town's Swimming Bath were made in June and

July and the Manchester Public Health Laboratory reported as follows:—

Date	Analyst's Report
June, 1947	"The bacteriological state of the sample is quite unsatisfactory."
July, 1947	"Quite satisfactory."

On receipt of the unsatisfactory June report, mentioned above, the chlorination plant of the baths was investigated and found to be defective, this was remedied as shown by tests taken at the baths themselves and on the second laboratory examination mentioned above.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Rivers Pollution.—There is nothing new to record under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.—During 1947, 22 conversions of Pail Closets to the Water-carriage system were carried out. This, together with 48 houses demolished and vacated during the year, reduces the number of pails yet to be dealt with to 358 approximately, made up as follows:—

(1) Attached to properties provisionally scheduled for demolition	190
(2) Properties fit for conversions	168
	358

Public Cleansing.—The routine work of refuse and salvage collection proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

The total amount of salvage and scrap disposed of during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1947 is set out herewith:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrts.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper only	109	15	3	699	2	6
Scrap, other than waste paper	134	10	0½	292	12	7
	244	5	3½	991	15	1

Recreational and Open Spaces.—During 1947 the following Young Children's Playgrounds have been maintained:— Ann Street, Dean Street, Queen Street and Darwin Street.

Offensive Trades.—There are no alterations in the offensive trades in the district and no action has been found necessary.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.—During the year 1947, eight renewals of contracts for the destruction of rats and mice were issued to private owners, making a total amount of £38. 15 minor infestations were satisfactorily treated, in addition to the Council's tips, sewers and sewage outfall works.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is no change to record regarding the two licensed Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Licensed Camping Sites.—No licenses were issued for camp-sites in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1947.

Licences to Slaughter Animals.—During the year, 1 new licence was issued, the total number now in operation is 8.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

(Based on a Statement made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

	Nature of Inspections made	Number.	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices.			
			Statutory.	Informal.	Notice complied with	Remaining in hand.	Prosecutions. Instituted.	Prosecutions. Pending.
1.	Dwelling Houses, (general inspection)	810	50	128	125	53	..	..
2.	Cellar Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3.	Back-to-Back Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4.	Tents' Vans, Sheds, etc. ..	101	..	9	9	..	..	..
5.	Courts, Yards, Passages ..	10	1	..	..	1	..	..
6.	Pail Closets	358	..	15	15	..	..	..
7.	Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8.	House Drainage	126	6	51	47	10	..	..
9.	Ditches, Watercourses, etc. ..	10	..	2	2	..	..	..
10.	Offensive Accumulations ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11.	Keeping of Animals	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12.	Offensive Trades	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
13.	(a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	,, (Private) ..	30	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(b) Other Places where food is produced or sold	209	..	6	3	3	..	..
14	Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15.	(a) Dairies	24	..	1	1	..	..	..
	(b) Cowsheds	4	..	1	1	..	..	..
	(c) Milkshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16.	(a) Factories	29	..	16	16	..	..	..
	(b) Workshops	57	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(c) Workplaces	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(d) Outworkers' Premises ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
17.	Bakehouses (Overground) ..	30	..	5	5	..	..	..
	,, (Underground) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18.	Common Lodging Houses ..	8	..	1	1	..	..	..
19.	Houses let in Lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20.	Smoke Observations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21.	Canal Boats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22.	Infectious Disease Inquiries and Revisits	104	..	..	..	..	..	..
23.	Miscellaneous	60	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Totals	1998	57	235	225	67	..	..

FACTORIES INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In-spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	29	24	8	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	87	34	11	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	20	1	—
Total	123	78	20	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ..	18	18	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	21	21	—	2	—

Section D.

HOUSING.

The number of houses visited during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspectors was 810 and such urgent repairs as were found to be necessary were carried out.

In addition, representations under Section 11 were submitted to the Council in respect of 5 houses in Whalley Road and under Section 12 the closure of 2 premises in Witton Street was obtained.

Provision of New Houses.—The Council's Housing Programme has been pursued to the utmost and the progress made during the year 1947 reads as follows:—

(1) **New Traditional Three Bedroom Type Houses.**

(a) Erected by Local Authority and tenanted during 1947 43
making a total of 74 houses tenanted on the Parkfield Housing Estate.

(b) Commenced and in course of erection on the Rudheath and Shurlach Housing Estate ... 136

(2) **New Sites.**

The Council acquired 32 acres of land to be known as the Hartford Manor Housing Estate.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**

During the year 60 samples of milk, being retailed in the area, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

(1) **For the presence of living Tubercle Bacilli.** — These organisms were found in none of the 5 samples submitted.

(2) **For Cleanliness Tests.**—Of the 55 samples submitted for these tests:—

18	samples of	Pasteurised Milk	were	satisfactory
4	,,	,,	,,	,,	part-satisfactory
1	,,	,,	,,	was	unsatisfactory
3	,,	,, T.T. (Past.)	,,	were	satisfactory
14	,,	,, Ungraded	,,	,,	satisfactory
5	,,	,,	,,	,,	unsatisfactory
1	,,	,, T.T.	,,	was	satisfactory
3	,,	,,	,,	were	part-satisfactory

School Milk Supplies.—During the year the milk being supplied by local retailers to the schools was further investigated with the following results:—

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised supplies	9	2
Tuberculin-Tested supplies ...	1	2

In addition, 19 satisfactory County Council reports were received on pasteurised milk being produced in the Town.

Milk (Special Designations) Order.—The total number of licences issued for the year under this Order was as follows:—

Licence to pasteurised milk (H.T.S.T.)	1
Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin-Tested" milk bottled on the premises	1
Licence to use the designation "Tuberculin-Tested" milk not bottled on the premises	7
Licence to use the designation "Pasteurised"	3
Supplementary licences to use the designation "Tuberculin-Tested"	2
	14

(b) **Meat.**—Since the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Northwich closed on the 31st October, 1941, no slaughtering has taken place in the district.

The following is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during 1947:—

Imported beef	710	lbs.	Barley, beans, split-peas 2 cwts.	2	qrs.
Veal	44	lbs.	Prunes	25	lbs.
Meat, Milk, Fish, Veg. Fruit	1691	tins	Oranges 14 cwts.	20	lbs.
Chickens	20 at $3\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.	Tea	$4\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Ham & Bacon	36 lbs. 5	ozs.	Toffee	56	lbs.
Wet Fish	42 st. 9	lbs.	Pudding Powder	34	pkts.
Kippers	22	st.	Pudding (tinned)	$17\frac{1}{2}$	cases
Fish Cakes	48		Powder (Cream)	28	lbs.
Cheese	8	lbs.	Bread	18	loaves
Butter	87 lbs. 6	ozs.	Scones	300	
Chestnuts	25	lbs.	Milk Cakes	6	
Self-raising flour	48	lbs.	Chocolate biscuits	10	lbs.
			Chocolate Cup	7	pkts.

(c) **Other Foods and Ice Cream.**—The inspection and registration where called for, of premises in which other foods, e.g. prepared meats, fried fish, etc. are prepared, have been conscientiously carried out during the year.

The position at the end of December, 1947 was as follows:—

Registered premises for the sale of Ice Cream	14
Registered premises for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream	2
Registered premises for the frying of fish	18
Registered premises for the manufacture and sale of prepared meats, etc.	22
Total ...	56

Ice Cream.—The Health Department took 9 samples of Ice Cream during the year and details of these samples are recorded as follows:—

Samples from 1st January to 1st May, 1947:—

Total — 1 sample.

1 Cold Mix — part satisfactory — compared with old Grade A milk standards.

Samples from 1st May to 31st December, 1947:—

Total — 8 samples.

6 Hot Mix — Grade 1 — nil.
,, 2 — 2 samples.
,, 4 — 4 ,,

2 Cold Mix — Grade 1 — nil.
,, 3 — 1 sample.
,, 4 — 1 ,,

Since the Ice Cream (Heat-Treatment, etc.) Regulations came into force on the 1st May, much time and attention has been given by the Health Department Staff to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream. In this work I am glad to acknowledge the valuable assistance given to us by the Advisory Staff of the Reaseheath Cheshire School of Agriculture.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Northwich Urban District during the year 1947:—

Name of Sample.	Number obtained	No. adulterated or not up to the recognised standards of quality.
Baking Powder	1	
Bicarbonate of Soda	1	
Cascara Sagrada Tablets	1	
Castor Oil	1	
Fish Pastes	2	
"Fruit Cup" (Mineral Drink)	1	
Ginger (Ground)	1	
Gregory Powders	1	
Junket Powder	1	
Lemonade	2	
Lemonade Crystals	1	
Liquorice Powder	1	
Meat Pastes	1	
Milk	40	2
Mustard	1	
Pepper (White)	1	
Potassium Permanganate	1	
Rum	1	
Vinegar (Malt)	1	
,, (Non-brewed)	1	
Total	61	2

Particulars of samples not up to standard :—

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1.	Milk	Adulterated with 15.7% extraneous water	The sample was taken from a retailer who, on receiving summons, laid an information under Section 83 of the 1938 Act against his supplying farmer. Magistrates dismissed case against retailer, but fined farmer £10. Farmer appealed to Quarter Sessions on grounds that conviction was against weight of evidence and, on a technical point, the Quarter Sessions allowed the appeal.
2.	Milk	Naturally deficient in Non-fatty-solids 2.3%.	No action taken.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, with the notable exception of Measles and Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis was low as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1947.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	16	15	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—
Measles	294	5	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Erysipelas	2	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	2	—

As to the incidence of Poliomyelitis, all notified cases occurred in the late summer and autumn. Of the 4 cases, 1 was admitted to Davenham Isolation Hospital and was later transferred to the Clatterbridge County Hospital for Orthopaedic treatment, 1 was admitted to Clatterbridge County Hospital direct, as the diagnosis was not made until the end of the infectious phase. The remaining 2 cases were very mild and did not need admission to hospital.

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for.	Number submitted	Result.	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	21	—	21
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	1	—	1
Hæmolytic Streptococci	3	2	1
Faeces	3	—	3

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-15 ,, ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25 ,, ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 ,, ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 ,, ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 ,, ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	9	3	1	3	1	—	—	—

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
145	160	160	165	175	185	182	176	146

60 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 2 of which were reported on as positive.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1941 — 1947, the progress made in the Urban Area under the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which was commenced jointly in 1941 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee, can be gathered from the following figures:—

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.
Percentage of Children treated between 0-4 years of age inclusive	25·9%	35·7%	41·5%	44·8%	42·5%	44·3%	49·05%
Percentage of Children treated between 5-14 years of age inclusive	83·4%	92·2%	78·1%	78·5%	79·8%	80·6%	77·65%

The total number of children known to have received protective treatment in the Northwich Urban area up to December, 1947 was 4,065, of whom 366 have received "booster" injections.

The results of the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme on the prevalence of Diphtheria in the Northwich Urban District may be gathered from the following table:—

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947
Number of Diphtheria Cases ...	**22**	11	3	7	9	7	4	1	—	—
Number of deaths from Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Number of Children known to have had the protective treatment	—	—	9	2703	3137	3304	3553	3789	3877	4065

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangement made in 1942 through the Joint M.O.H. Committee for the treatment of Scabies and Pediculosis patients worked very satisfactorily during 1947.

The steady reduction in the incidence of Scabies since 1942 can be gathered from the following:—

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases of Scabies	684	376	222	157	127	77
Cases of Pediculosis	46	36	15	7	8	5
Total	730	412	237	164	135	82
Number of households involved	212	156	116	88	75	44

(5) DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

The disinfection of 109 homes was carried out during the year as follows:—

For Vermin	80 houses
For Tuberculosis (plus steam disinfection of bedding)	5 ,,
For Infectious Diseases	24 ,,

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1948.